

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and to specify that the membranes move independently from one another so that the pressure in each blind compartment can be sensed independently. Support for the added recitation is found in the original application, for example, on page 8, lines 6-7.

Also, claim 1 has been presented with separate paragraphs.

Claims 2-3 and 9-12 have been canceled and claims 4-6 have been amended to conform to the amendments to claim 1.

New claim 13 has been added to recite that the communication paths are located on a same side of the connector so that they can be connected in a single operation to a coupling ring. Support for the added recitation is found in the original application, for example, on page 8, lines 20-25.

Claims 1, 4-8 and 13 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,796,007 to Panagotopoulos et al. ("Panagotopoulos") and claims 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Pangotopoulos in view of US 5,483,835 to Ciolli ("Ciolli").

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. In Panagotopoulos, the surfaces of the two membranes 54, 56 are attached to the same displacement element 32 in such a way that they are structurally integrated with each other and their

movements are systematically identical. This is consistent with the apparatus of Panagotopulos being a pressure differential transducer, which can measure a difference between two pressures, but not two pressures separately.

In contrast, in the presently claimed invention, the membranes move independently from one another so that the pressure in each blind compartment can be sensed independently, as recited in present claim 1. This feature of the presently claimed invention and its advantages are not taught or suggested in Panagotopulos, and Ciolli fails to remedy this deficiency. Therefore, the present claims are not anticipated by Panagotopulos, and not obvious over Panagotopulos alone or in any combination with Ciolli.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Application No. **10/591,753**
Art Unit: 2855

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: **062970**

If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Nicolas E. Seckel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,373
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

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